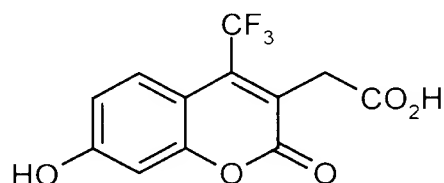


O-dealkylation of the compound of formula (I) by the enzyme is measured by quantifying the compound of formula (II):



(II)

13. The assay according to claim 12 wherein the compound of formula (II) is quantified by fluorescence detection.

14. The assay according to claim 13 wherein the compound of formula (II) is quantified by scanning at excitation wavelength of 410 nm and an emission wavelength of 510 nm.

15. A compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 10.

16. A process for the production of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 13 which comprises:

- a) reaction of resorcinol and a dialkyl trifluoroacetosuccinate wherein the alkyl groups are independently selected from C₁₋₂ alkyl, in the presence of polyphosphoric acid;
- b) reaction of the resulting 7-hydroxycoumarin with a compound of formula R¹Hal, wherein R¹ is C₁₋₂ alkyl and Hal is halogen, e.g. iodine or bromine; and
- c) ester hydrolysis to give the acid of formula (I).

17. A compound of formula (II) as defined in claim 12.

18. A process for the production of a compound of formula (II) as defined in claim 12 which comprises:

- a) reaction of resorcinol and a dialkyl trifluoroacetosuccinate wherein the alkyl groups are independently selected from C₁₋₂ alkyl, in the presence of polyphosphoric acid; and
- b) ester hydrolysis to give the acid of formula (II).